

**Carmel, NY** - Congressman John Hall (NY-19) and Congressman Maurice Hinchey (NY-22) announced today that Orange County has received a Department of Justice grant in the amount of \$172,325 to fund forensic science and medical examiner services.

The funding is provided through the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program, which allows states and local governments to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services.

"Forensic science is a critical tool in law enforcement that helps to put criminals behind bars and keep our communities safe," said Rep. Hall. This funding ensures Orange County is able to improve its medical examiner services and better service the justice system by eliminating the backlog of examinations and research. "

"These federal resources will help Orange County law enforcement enhance the use of technology and modern crime fighting techniques used to track down and prosecute those who commit crimes," said Hinchey. "Communities throughout Orange County, in places like Newburgh and Middletown, will be safer as a result. I am committed to doing everything I can to help reduce the crime rate throughout these areas, and this is another good step in the right direction."

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program (the Coverdell program) funding may be used to eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic evidence and to train and employ forensic laboratory personnel, as needed, to eliminate such a backlog.